

in the ring, as far as conformation and action are concerned, and, accordingly, he wins the premier place; but when breeding value is considered—and this should be a strong factor in making awards in breeding classes—he is nil; yet he gets the money. If, with his good conformation and quality, he should be turned down, the ringside spectators would criticise the judging, and those not well versed in horse-judging would receive wrong impressions of what constitutes the desired type. So, as long as the prize lists read "filly or gelding" in these classes, so long will geldings continue to win money that should not be won by anything but a filly or an entire horse. The gelding deserves recognition, but it should be in classes not intended for or shown as breeding animals.

The Percheron.

In "The Horse Book," written by J. H. S. Johnstone, of Chicago, Ill., the author says: "It is probably beyond question that French horses of draft blood were imported into Canada about the beginning of the nineteenth century, probably earlier, but the first authentic history we have of an imported horse making a great mark in the stud is of the McNitt horse, or European, landed at Montreal about the year 1816. There is some dispute about the weight of this stallion. He was a gray, and as he was a fast trotter, and begot Alexander's Norman, which founded an unimportant strain of trotters, it is unlikely that he was at all large. It is history, also, that Alexander's Norman was never intended to be used as a getter of trotters. He was more or less of the draft type, as draft type went in these far back days, and it cannot be said that his blood has been of material benefit to the trotter as a breed.

"Percherons were imported into New Jersey in 1839 and later, but it was with the importation in 1851 of Louis Napoleon into Union County, Ohio, by Charles Fullington and Erastus Martin, that the importation and breeding of Percheron horses into this country really had its inception as a business. This celebrated stallion, Louis Napoleon, weighed about 1,600 pounds at his best, and after his purchase by the Dillons and removal to McLean County, Illinois, began the movement which has placed the Prairie State in the very front rank among the commonwealths in which draft horses are produced. From the time of Louis Napoleon, the development of the Percheron has been the favorite drafter of the American people. There are probably three times as many Percherons in the United States to-day as there are of any other one draft breed.

"The Percheron has been greatly aided, no doubt, in its upward course by numbering among its supporters many of the monumental characters in the American horse business. At that, sufficient time has elapsed since the importing business began for the breed to find its proper level. That it enjoys its present popularity must be attributed solely to its suitability to the needs and desires of the American people.

"Typically, the Percheron is a horse of some range, not squatty or chunky. He has a top line which differs from that of most other breeds, in that correctly it is somewhat higher just back of the coupling and between the points of the hip-bones. This, of course, accentuates any lowness of the back or droop of the quarters that may be present. He has good width, his ribs well sprung out from the back bone, and rounded like a barrel, but his quarters should not be bagged out like the hams of a Poland-China hog. Instead, they should have a flowing, rounded contour indicative of promptitude of movement, as well as strength. The neck should be well arched, not coarse, and well set up, topped off with a head that appears rather small for the size of the horse. Short, stubby necks and heavy, sour heads are not typical of the breed. The bone often appears light, judged by the standard of some other breeds, but it is of the stuff that wears, as has been proved on the streets. The pasterns are not long. Coupled with this sort of conformation, there is in the typical Percheron a breezy gait of motion and an air of elegance characteristic of no other breed."

In "Types and Breeds of Farm Animals," by Professor Charles S. Plumb, of Ohio State University, the author says: "Cross-bred or grade Percherons are very common in America. In fact, the number of pure-bred registered mares is comparatively small. Pure-bred stallions mated to the larger type of grade mares, of drafty conformation, furnish most of our best draft teams. Prepotent Percheron stallions mated to mares of other draft breeds also usually give satisfactory results, and this is a favorite combination in some localities where legs with feather hairs are found on mares of Clyde or Shire ancestry. The resulting offspring are usually smooth-legged, and more easily satisfy the common market demands. In the South, Curtis has not reported so favorably on the mating of Percherons on native mares, finding that the 'half-blood colts' were somewhat prone to bone and leg diseases. This, how-

ever, is not a general difficulty with Percherons, for, if it were, the popularity of the breed would long ago have suffered severely. The most prominent buyers in the Chicago horse market have testified in the highest terms to the demand for Percheron grades and crosses, and repeatedly grade geldings of show-ring form have sold for \$500 per head and over.

"The present popularity of the Percheron in the United States is very great. While it is true that any high-class draft horse is looked on with favor in the market, and readily commands a good price, this breed is an American favorite. No other draft breed is raised pure on so large a scale as this. Percheron studs, containing pure-bred mares, are becoming more common than ever before in the United States. The large number of horses of this breed seen at the shows attests its general favor in the Mississippi Valley. In the horse market, Percheron blood predominates. This popularity is largely due to docility, intelligence, activity, heavy weight, excellent feet, and reliability in heavy-draft work. This prestige bids fair to remain for years to come."

LIVE STOCK.

A good indication of the condition of the country's live-stock business was the overcrowded stalls and pens at the large fall exhibitions.

Whether the demand be keen or slow, the animal of highest quality and best conformation receives the most ready sale.

Now is the time that the cutting-box should be freely used in preparing the corn for calf feed. Much less waste will be found where this method is practiced than where the corn is fed whole.

Fall litters are now arriving. Do not confine the sow and her young pigs in too close quarters. Give them room to exercise. After the pigs are a week or so old, the run of the orchard is very good for them, and they help destroy the codling worms in the worthless fallen fruit.

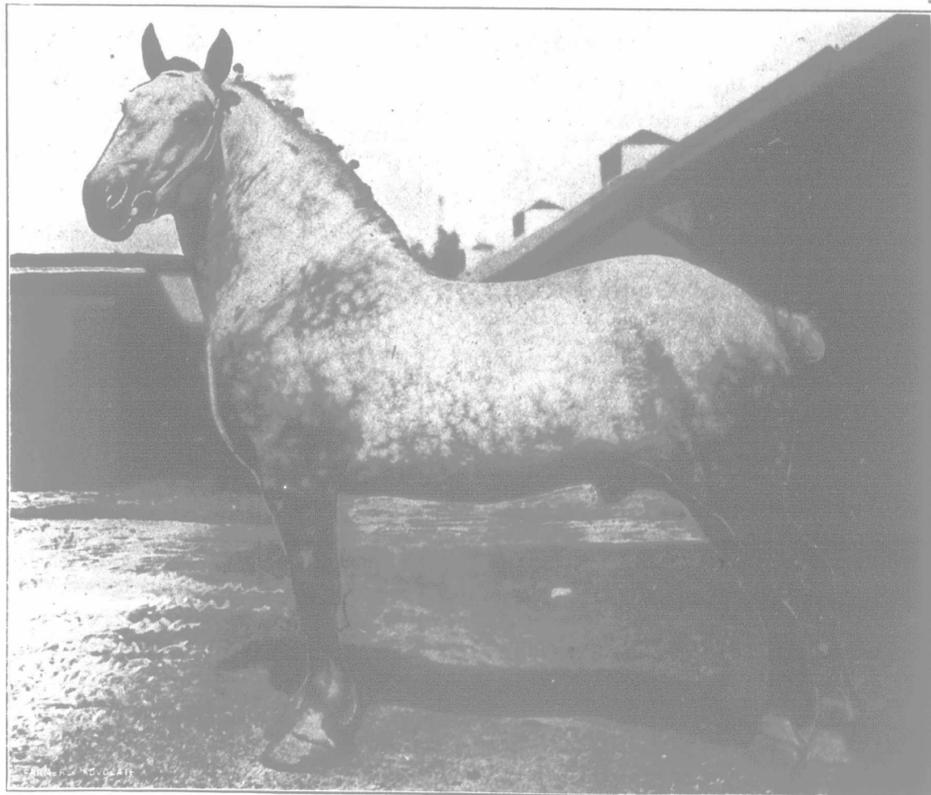
A stallioner, writing in the Breeders' Gazette, states it as his experience that salt fed to breeding females tends against their holding to service, citing instances from his experience. His discovery is indeed extraordinary, if true, but we confess strong scepticism. Strange that salt, which all animals crave, which is necessary to the proper churnability of cream, and which stock require for best thrift, should have such a baleful effect as claimed. Strange, also, that, if true, it should not have been learned about long ago.

However, if anyone wishes to test the theory, he can easily do so.

If an early lamb crop is desired, do not further delay turning the ram with the ewes. Many sheep-breeders like to get the lambs started before turning the ewes away to pasture, because there is always more time to look after the new arrivals than later. The first of October is a very good time to begin the mating season, but if there is danger of a scarcity of feed, it might be better to defer it a little, as ewes suckling lambs require liberal rations.

Rely on the Eye in Judging.

There are two classes of stock, and one in particular, that sometimes receive a great amount of handling by the judge in the show-ring. The two referred to are cattle and sheep, and the latter often comes in for far more mauling than is in any way necessary. The horse and pig escape with very little of this treatment, the judge relying upon his eye to place the animals before him in their proper order. A trained eye is the most valuable asset the judge has to aid him to make his decisions. True, with sheep, the wool can be so trimmed as to cover up many defects, and it is necessary to handle carefully in order to ascertain the exact size and shape of the body under the fleece; but handling carefully does not mean that it is necessary to go over the same points time after time, until the animal's flesh is sore from the continued pinching. Too much handling generally worries the judge, as well as the animals. He does so much work on them that he forgets just what points he has made, becomes undecided, and goes over the work again, with much the same result as before. The system which he intended to follow is not followed, and in the end the sheep are standing badly, with their wool disturbed and rough, and there is more likelihood of poor work being done by the judge than if less time and more system had been followed. Of course, the best judges do not make these mistakes, but they are made frequently each season by others. By standing back and sizing up the animals, one can get a very good idea of the outlines of the individuals, can compare the different points, including the underpinning, which is often overlooked, and can form an opinion from these first impressions which will help materially in the final placing. First impressions are always valuable in placing the awards. After carefully comparing the animals by the eye, handle them to be sure of the points that might deceive the sight, but in this handling avoid roughness, and go about the task systematically. Compare the points separately. It is next to impossible, especially with sheep, to handle one individual all over, then go to the next, and so on down the line until finished, without finding that such a muddle of points results that the work must be



Glasdorae (imp.) 2001.
Champion Percheron stallion, Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, 1911; foaled 1906. Owner, J. W. Tackaberry, Merlin, Ont. Sire Mangelont.